



**Spartan Motors Chassis Inc.
1000 Reynolds Road ♦ Charlotte MI 48813**

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

<< Seat Belt Retention (Firetruck) >>
Internally coded: SPEC << 88049 >>

99V-118 (01)

This report submitted to: **Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20590**

**Attn: Pat Wallace
Office of Defects Investigation
Fax: (202) 366-5232**

(1) Manufacturer's Identification

The manufacturer's name: **Spartan Motors, Inc.
1000 Reynolds Road
Charlotte, Michigan 48813
(517) 543-6400**

Corporate contact for recall information:

**Wayne Ridge
Product Improvement Administrator
Customer Service Operations
(517) 543-6400, extension 445**

**(800) 722-3025
Fax: (517) 543-7764**

This report prepared by:

**Barry Killick
Compliance Manager
Product Compliance Group**

**(517) 543-6400, extension 310
Fax: (517) 543-7729**

Date this report was prepared:

<< Date 04/28/99 >>

Preparer's signature:

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Defect and Noncompliance Information Report
Submitted by Spartan Motors, Inc.

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| Recall Topic |
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(2) Vehicle Identification

Identification of the vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment potentially containing the defect:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Make(s) | Spartan Motors | | |
| Model(s) | Baron | | |
| Model Years Involved | 1989-1998 | | |
| Vehicle Type | Firetruck | | |
| Weight Range | From | To | |
| GVWR | 34,000 | 89,600 | |
| Weight Class | Class 8 | Class 8 | |
| Production Range | Production Date | Serial Number | Event |
| Beginning | 03/08/90 | 012639 | None |
| Ending | 02/25/98 | 027403 | |
| % Potentially Involved | 100% | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Make(s) | Spartan Motors | | |
| Model(s) | Charger | | |
| Model Years Involved | 1991-1997 | | |
| Vehicle Type | Firetruck | | |
| Weight Range | From | To | |
| GVWR | 36,600 | 79,500 | |
| Weight Class | Class 8 | Class 8 | |
| Production Range | Production Date | Serial Number | Event |
| Beginning | 12/10/96 | 020701 | None |
| Ending | 09/30/98 | 028314 | |
| % Potentially Involved | 100% | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Make (s) | Spartan Motors | | |
| Model(s) | Diamond | | |
| Model Years Involved | 1190-1991 | | |
| Vehicle Type | Firetruck | | |
| Weight Range | From | To | |
| GVWR | 36,600 | 82,740 | |
| Weight Class | Class 8 | Class 8 | |
| Production Range | Production Date | Serial Number | Event |
| Beginning | 01/31/91 | 003628 | None |
| Ending | 10/17/96 | 023105 | |
| % Potentially Involved | 100% | | |

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|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Make (s) | Spartan Motors | | |
| Model(s) | Gladietor | | |
| Model Years Involved | 1997-1999 | | |
| Vehicle Type | Firetruck | | |
| Weight Range | From | To | |
| GVWR | 40,000 | 78,500 | |
| Weight Class | Class 8 | Class 8 | |
| Production Range | Production Date | Serial Number | Event |
| Beginning | 10/14/88 | 001104 | None |
| Ending | 10/09/98 | 029935 | |
| % Potentially Involved | 100% | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Make (s) | Spartan Motors | | |
| Model(s) | Metrostar | | |
| Model Years Involved | 1991-1999 | | |
| Vehicle Type | Firetruck | | |
| Weight Range | From | To | |
| GVWR | 35,500 | 69,500 | |
| Weight Class | Class 8 | Class 8 | |
| Production Range | Production Date | Serial Number | Event |
| Beginning | 03/28/92 | 005410 | None |
| Ending | 10/08/98 | 029923 | |
| % Potentially Involved | 100% | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Make (s) | Spartan Motors | | |
| Model(s) | Galaxy New Generation | | |
| Model Years Involved | 1993-1997 | | |
| Vehicle Type | Firetruck | | |
| Weight Range | From | To | |
| GVWR | 33,000 | 33,000 | |
| Weight Class | Class 7 | Class 7 | |
| Production Range | Production Date | Serial Number | Event |
| Beginning | 10/21/93 | 010188 | None |
| Ending | 04/15/97 | 024334 | |
| % Potentially Involved | 100% | | |

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|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Make (s) | Spartan Motors | | |
| Model(s) | Silent Knight | | |
| Model Years Involved | 1991-1997 | | |
| Vehicle Type | Firetruck | | |
| Weight Range | From | To | |
| GVWR | 36,000 | 41,600 | |
| Weight Class | Class 8 | Class 8 | |
| Production Range | Production Date | Serial Number | Event |
| Beginning | 02/25/91 | 003457 | None |
| Ending | 06/16/95 | 017386 | |
| % Potentially Involved | 100% | | |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Make (s) | Spartan Motors | | |
| Model(s) | Advantage | | |
| Model Years Involved | 1989-1998 | | |
| Vehicle Type | Firetruck | | |
| Weight Range | From | To | |
| GVWR | 35,600 | 64,000 | |
| Weight Class | Class 8 | Class 8 | |
| Production Range | Production Date | Serial Number | Event |
| Beginning | 01/05/86 | 020889 | None |
| Ending | 01/04/98 | 030118 | |
| % Potentially Involved | 100% | | |

Descriptive information which characterizes / distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall.

This recall includes all 4 door model firetrucks which contain dual, forward facing passenger seats. These seats will be found mounted to one of the following seat box assemblies: 0366-RR6, 0572-RR6, 0680-RR6, 0867-RR6, 0921-RR6, 0927-RR6, 1016-RR6, 1017-RR6, 1051-RR6, 1237-RR6, 1264-RR6, 1416-RR6 or 1564-RR6.

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(3) Recall Population

The total number of vehicles or items of equipment potentially containing the defect and where available the number of vehicles or items of equipment in each group identified.

| Model | Model Year | Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Baron | 1989-1998 | 28 |
| Charger | 1991-1997 | 3 |
| Diamond | 1990-1998 | 144 |
| Gladiator | 1987-1999 | 1246 |
| Metrostar | 1991-1999 | 160 |
| Galaxy New Generation (GT 1) | 1993-1997 | 37 |
| Silent Knight | 1991-1997 | 11 |
| Advantage | 1996-1998 | 126 |
| Total | | 1753 |

(4) Defect Percentage

The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect.

Approximate Defect Percentage: 100 %

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined -- in particular how the recalled models were selected and the bases for the inclusive dates of manufacture:

The population was identified as all four door Spartan Motors fire-truck models having two, non-adjustable, forward facing passenger seats mounted to a common, aluminum seat box assembly.

(5) Defect Identification

A description and consequence of the defect or noncompliance, including both a brief summary and a detailed description, with graphic aids as necessary, of the nature and physical location (if applicable) of the defect or noncompliance.

A cab assembly complete with a dual, forward facing seat/seatbox assembly and Type 1 seat belt system installation was tested for compliance with the requirements of FMVSS 207 AND 210.

Non compliance was established through the testing performed on Spartan's 1998 Firetruck Cab S/O # 58843 by TRC Inc, East Liberty, Ohio between January 8th and January 15th 1998. TRC TEST # 980108F.

This testing was conducted using NHTSA's OVSC Laboratory Test Procedures No. TP-207-09 and TP-210-08 as a guideline.

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Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The hardware utilized to mount the seat box to the cab floor and to the backwall structure and also to mount the Type 1 seat belt systems, was inadequate to meet the requirements of FMVSS 207/210, SEATING SYSTEMS ANCHORAGE and SEAT BELT ASSEMBLY ANCHORAGES respectively.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The seat box mounting/restraining hardware may loosen or fail allowing the seat/seat box assembly to break free of its mounting to the cab floor and/or backwall which may cause injury to the occupants of those seats.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

None

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, and representatives. N/A

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Generic component name: | |
| Component part number: | |
| Corporate name: | |
| Corporate address: | |
| Corporate telephone number: | |
| CEO name: | |
| CEO telephone: | |
| Knowledgeable representative name: | |
| Knowledgeable rep. title: | |
| Knowledgeable rep. telephone: | |

(g) Defect Determination Chronology

In the case of a defect, a chronology of all principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety, including a summary of all warranty claims, field or service reports, and other information (such as number of reports, crashes, injuries, fatalities), with their dates of receipt.

None found in Spartan's Customer Service database of customer concerns or customer feedback as a result of normal vehicle operations.

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(7) Noncompliance Determination Chronology

In the case of a noncompliance, the test results or other data on the basis of which the manufacturer determined the existence of the noncompliance.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Test report title: | 1998 Spartan Fire Truck Cab with Rear, Forward Facing Seats |
| Test agency: | Transportation Research Center Inc. |
| Test report identification: | 980106F |
| Test report date: | January 8 th 1998 |

(8) Remedy Identification

A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. The manufacturer's program will be available for inspection in the public docket, Room 5109, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Washington, DC 20950.

Remove existing seat box mounting fasteners and replace with: a) Grade 5 threaded bolt mounting fasteners b) adjustable tether belts, and c) steel cab floor and cab backwall reinforcement plates.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component / assembly versus the recalled component / assembly.

The non-compliant vehicles will contain seat box mounting hardware both for box to floor and box to backwall, that is of the self tapping thread variety. The aluminum cab structure will contain no reinforcement plates.

The compliant vehicle will contain seat box mounting hardware that consists of: 1/4-20 UN, Grade 5 bolts for seat box to backwall mounting, 3/8-18 UN, Grade 5 bolts for seat box to cab floor mounting and .125 thick, steel reinforcement plates at the bolted areas.

(See attached document for details)

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

A Spartan Engineering Change Request No D1839, was released October 27, 1998 beginning with vehicles having Sales Order No 28384.

A test to determine compliance of the corrected seat box mounting design to the requirements of FMVSS 207/210 was completed by TRC Inc on October 30th 1998. Ref: TRC Test # 981019.

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Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for remedy notification to other manufacturers, dealers / retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.
Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for remedy part(s) and instruction availability.

Pending

(9) Communications Copies

A representative copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and are sent to more than one

- manufacturer
- distributor
- dealer
- purchaser

These copies shall be submitted to the NHTSA not later than five (5) days after they are initially sent to manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or purchasers. In the case of any notification sent by the manufacturer pursuant to Part 577 of this chapter, the copy of the notification shall be submitted by certified mail.

| Document Description | Document Identification and Title |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Preliminary Final-Stage Manufacturer Notification (If applicable) | N/A |
| Customer Notification Letter (required) | Pending |
| Customer Notification Script (If applicable) | N/A |
| Press Release (If applicable) | N/A |
| Service Instructions (required) | Pending |
| Envelope Sample (If different than approved format from recall 85V-142) | N/A |

(10) Draft Notification Letter

A DRAFT copy of the notification document SHOULD BE submitted to this office by telefax (FAX: 202-368-7882) for review prior to mailing

A draft of the customer notification letter will be submitted when available.

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(11) Campaign Identification Number

The manufacturer's campaign number, if it is not identical to the identification number assigned by NHTSA.

Spartan Motors, Inc. will include the identification number assigned by NHTSA in all publications related to this recall, after that number is available. Additionally, the internal Spartan designation SPEC 98049 may be referenced.